

A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST

“...A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST”

(PHILEMON 1:1)

Beloved, take notice of what the apostle writes *“Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ.”* Notice, our brother does not write that he was a prisoner of Nero or a prisoner of Rome but rather, Paul makes us to know, he was exactly where the Lord wanted him to be. Beloved, whatever the suffering, whatever the difficulty, whatever trial or trouble came upon him, Paul always looked upon it as being the will of His Lord. There is a lot to learn here, much to learn, as one brother intimated in the most affectionate way; ‘God graciously makes His people to kiss His sovereign hand and bless Him for His good providence in everything.’

In another place the apostle writes *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”* (PHILIPPIANS 4:11). I pray, the Lord enabling, that we could cultivate the same spirit among His people, indeed that is the outlook we ought to have in everything.

Beloved, I’m so glad that the apostle didn’t say *“I knew it already”* rather, ever so blessedly he said *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* How did he do that? How can you and I be content in whatsoever state? How can you and I be content in times of difficulty, pressure, and what is seemingly like utter and complete failure?

Beloved, by God’s undeserved grace in Christ, we can be content by having this one thing stayed in our hearts and minds: I’m here according to the purpose of my Heavenly Father, according to the perfect will of my God, that although I may not see it right now, somehow our mighty God is going to use all things for His glory and the good of His people...all the while trusting and hoping, that I’m included among them.

Though Nero the Emperor of Rome compelled Paul outwardly, inwardly Paul knew that he was exactly where his Lord purposed him to be. As someone once said “That’ll keep us from trying to live in the future... and it’ll keep us from trying to always straighten out the past.” By being made to know that where we are, what we’re doing, and what we’re going through is according to God’s perfect will, He grants His people peace. For beloved, He *“hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began”* (2 TIMOTHY 1:9).

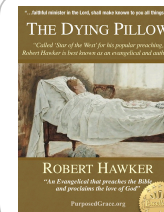
PASTOR

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

February 10th, 2019

“Truly my soul waiteth
upon GOD: from HIM
cometh my salvation”

(PSALM 62:1)



On our bookshelf... Robert Hawker

The Dying Pillow

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**Sunday mornings beginning at 10 am,
and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm**

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This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

JOHN 11 — CHRIST OUR SUBSTITUTE

Recorded on Sunday morning, December 24th, 2017

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SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH CONFERENCE

FEB 22ND @ 7:30 PM | FEB 23RD @ 8 AM (MEN'S BREAKFAST), 6 PM | FEB 24TH @ 10 AM

PASTOR CLAY CURTIS, & PASTOR TODD NIBERT

ASSURANCE FOR EVER

*"...THE WORK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL BE PEACE; AND THE EFFECT OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS QUIETNESS AND ASSURANCE FOR EVER"*

(ISAIAH 32:17)

The only exchange of words that has ever brought peace to my heart are those words exchanged in the covenant of grace. The words exchanged between the Father and the Son on behalf of His blessed People. Our heavenly Father commands us to behold His Son and hear Him.

The Father declares of His Son and all His blessed people in Him. *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (MATTHEW 3:17). The Son declares to the Father *"Behold I and the children which God hath given me"*—*"Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost"* (HEBREWS 2:13, JOHN 17:12).

Beloved, from before the foundation of the world, we hear each blessed clause, each blessed sentence of the covenant, exchanged between the Father and the Son, and delivered to the believing heart by the Holy Spirit to His people.

How prone we are to try and find assurance in the words of others. Or worse yet, to try and give it to others with our own! Beloved, we'll only find peace, quietness, and assurance forever believing the words

exchanged by and within our covenant God, *who changeth not* [PSALM 15:4]. Words exchanged between the Father, His Son, and blessed to the hearts of His people by the Holy Spirit. Beloved, He sweareth to His own hurt, and changeth not—He declares to you elect of God—*"I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee"*—*"I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"* (PSALM 15:4, JEREMIAH 31:3, MALACHI 3:6).

LORD deliver us from looking to ourselves; cause us *"to put our trust in Him."* Grant us to hear the well pleasing voice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, declaring to us once again through the gospel of our salvation, that everything this poor undeserving sinner needs to be saved before a Holy God, has been freely and graciously supplied in and by Christ. Our Lord declares *"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand"* Beloved, no man shall pluck us out of the hands of our Father and His beloved Son. Believer, you can't even pluck yourself out of the hands of our God; you are sealed by His Holy Spirit and are His Son's purchased possession.

Everything I must be to be saved, he has graciously made me in the flesh of a man. Not in my flesh, but in the flesh and Spirit of His Son, which I now walk after by His grace. Beloved, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (ROMANS 8:1).

May God grant, both the writer and the reader, grace to behold that the only work that effects assurance to the hearts of His people, and that's not any work done in our flesh, but rather only the righteous finished work of Christ— fulfilling God's Law on our behalf. On the cross where our blessed Saviour died, He hath purchased [us] with his own blood. The punishing, bloody propitious death of our Lord that paid the penalty of all our unholy sins. And with that righteous life He lived as a man, and now He is risen and ever lives at the righthand of the Father, fulfilling every demand God requires of me for holiness. Lord, grant both the writer and reader help! Lord I believe, help my unbelief. Beloved, HE has accomplished and finished the work of our salvation. [ISAIAH 40:1-2, HEBREWS 4:3]

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." AMEN! (REVELATION 7:13-14)

PASTOR